



**The 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act (H.R. 10)  
Support the Amendment of Congressman Ed Markey to strike Sections 3032 and 3033  
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This nation has stood proudly and rightly for principles of liberty, justice and the rule of law, and yet this Congress stands ready to reverse this course and tell the world that those are only abstract principles and that torture is the practice of the day. Will this make us safer? Will it help in the fight against terrorism? No.

The United States is heading down a dangerous and deeply damaging path. The horrors of Abu Ghraib shocked the world, confirmed its worst suspicions, and made the United States less effective, less able to build alliances, and less capable of promoting the values the President so frequently speaks of.

What lessons did we learn from Abu Ghraib? And what lessons did we learn from the case of Maher Arar? – the Canadian the United States had sent to Syria, where he was tortured for ten months before being released and returned to Canada. Arar was found to be innocent, a man victimized by a system spiraling out of control. Arar is one of many cases. Amnesty International has documented other cases around the world where individuals have been detained, deported, held in secret detention, and tortured.

Sections 3032 and 3033 of "The 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act" (HR 10) make torture acceptable. It legalizes the outsourcing of torture and condones torture by other governments. This is outrageous. If the Congress passes the reprehensible provisions, it sends a message to governments around the world that it is okay to discount the rule of law, disregard international treaties, and abandon morality.

As the world's superpower, the United States must not codify torture. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on March 23 last year said, "There are international standards that civilized regimes adhere to and then there are regimes like Saddam Hussein's." A zero tolerance policy on torture is fundamental to any civilized regime. Sending captives to regimes notorious for torture is equally egregious.

We stand at a precipice. The legislative proposal before the U.S. Congress is shameful and destructive. For the safety of Americans and innocent men, women, and children around the world, the Congress must reject these provisions decidedly and overwhelmingly, and stand for the morals and principles of human rights that have made this nation strong. I urge the Congress to allow an up or down vote on the Markey amendment, which would strike the harmful provisions of sections 3032 and 3033, bring the legislation closer in line with the real recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and best protect this nation.

*Amnesty International is a grassroots organization with 1.5 million members worldwide working to promote and defend human rights. For information, contact Alex Arriaga or Jumana Musa at 202-544-0200, or visit [www.aiusa.org](http://www.aiusa.org).*